

Media, PA – This past winter, Congressman Joe Sestak (PA-07) held a series of grant seminars to provide his constituents with the necessary resources to seek out government funding for projects ranging from improving a community library to starting a small business venture. Today the Congressman hosted an expert on another key avenue of financing: private and foundational grants. More than 125 interested individuals gathered at Delaware County Community College to hear from the Congressman and Gloria Hibbett, director of the Regional Foundation Center at the Philadelphia Free Library. — “This seminar was an important opportunity for an expert in this field to share her knowledge with my constituents and allow them to explore options for private funding in the region,” said the Congressman. “Many constituents and organizations overlook the potential resources that private foundations can offer.”

The seminar attracted a wide range of citizens and groups in the Seventh District, including municipal leaders, civic organizations, and religious leaders. Discussion topics included ways to search for foundation grants and the application process itself. The forum was the seventh on funding hosted by Congressman Sestak.

The Congressman also described the first edition of his Pennsylvania 7th Congressional District Federal and State Grants & Resource Directory, a one-stop shop for learning about opportunities to secure project funding. After contacting a number of Congressional offices and consulting with government websites, Congressman Sestak determined there was no single resource available to educate the public about grants and other federal resources. With this understanding, the Congressman chose to develop a user-friendly resource guide for his constituents. Congressman Sestak compiled the guide, the first of its kind, and made it downloadable from his web site to serve as an aid in searching for funding. It can be found at www.sestak.house.gov/services2.shtml.

“As a representative, it is my responsibility to ensure that my constituents are aware of the resources available to them,” said Congressman Sestak. “Part of that job entails not only making sure information about funding opportunities, but also helping to facilitate contacts between grant-seekers and providers, and I am proud of the success I have had with matching up these two groups.”

Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a

series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of "Deep Blue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the "Global War on Terrorism." He served as President Clinton's Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever elected to the U.S. House of Representatives.

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